



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Committee Bill No. 5437**

LCO No. 5669



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM  
FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Connecticut Higher  
2 Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall establish, subject to  
3 available funding pursuant to section 2 of this act, a Student Loan  
4 Subsidy Program for the purpose of subsidizing interest rates on  
5 authority loans, as defined in subdivision (3) of section 10a-223 of the  
6 general statutes, to individuals employed as first responders, as defined  
7 in section 52-146v of the general statutes, and who meet the eligibility  
8 criteria established by the authority pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
9 section.

10 (b) The authority shall establish the eligibility criteria and  
11 administrative guidelines for the Student Loan Subsidy Program. Such  
12 eligibility criteria and guidelines shall include, but need not be limited  
13 to, (1) applicant eligibility, (2) interest rate subsidies and principal limits  
14 on authority loans subject to the Student Loan Subsidy Program, (3) the  
15 process for verifying the employment of the applicants, and (4) the

16 requirement that an interest rate subsidy through the Student Loan  
17 Subsidy Program shall terminate for any subsidy recipient who ceases  
18 to meet the employment requirements of such program during the term  
19 of such recipient's loan from the authority.

20       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Connecticut Higher  
21 Education Supplemental Loan Authority shall maintain a separate,  
22 nonlapsing account to hold funds for the Student Loan Subsidy  
23 Program established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The account shall  
24 contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account,  
25 including, but not limited to, state appropriations or proceeds from the  
26 sale of bonds authorized under section 3 of this act. Moneys in the  
27 account shall be expended by the authority for the purposes of the  
28 Student Loan Subsidy Program and for reasonable and necessary  
29 expenses for the administration of such program.

30       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes described in  
31 subsection (b) of this section and section 1 of this act, the State Bond  
32 Commission shall have the power from time to time to authorize the  
33 issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal  
34 amounts not exceeding seven million dollars annually.

35       (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount  
36 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Connecticut  
37 Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority for the purpose of the  
38 Student Loan Subsidy Program established under section 1 of this act.

39       (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise  
40 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the  
41 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all  
42 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this  
43 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived  
44 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in  
45 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to  
46 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
47 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided

48 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
 49 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be  
 50 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
 51 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
 52 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
 53 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
 54 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall  
 55 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
 56 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
 57 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
 58 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
 59 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
 60 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay  
 61 such principal and interest as the same become due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a student loan subsidy program for first responders.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. ROCHELLE, 104th Dist.; REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.  
SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.

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